

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GENEVA 07618 071341Z

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-05 OES-07 EUR-12 HUD-01 CEQ-01

EPA-01 SP-02 AID-05 CIAE-00 ERDA-05 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-08 INR-07 L-03 NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00

PM-05 USIA-06 SS-15 FEAE-00 INT-05 AGRE-00 OMB-01

TRSE-00 OIC-02 IOE-00 /112 W

-----128137 071347Z /46

P R 071308Z SEP 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 902

INFO USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 7618

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE, SENV, NATO, ECE

SUBJ: ECE WESTERN CAUCUS DISCUSSION ON ENVIRONMENT MEETING SEPT 5,
1977

REF: STATE 208943

SUMMARY: AT SEPTEMBER 5 ECE WESTERN CAUCUS MEETING, NORWAY
PUSHED FOR ECE SENIOR ADVISERS ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS
TO ESTABLISH EXPERT GROUPS TO CONDUCT ANALYSIS OF TOPICS
PROPOSED FOR POSSIBLE HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON ENVIRONMENT.
END SUMMARY.

1. ECE WESTERN CAUCUS MET SEPTEMBER 5 AT WORKING LEVEL TO
HOLD PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION ON SENIOR ADVISERS ON ENVIRONMENTAL
PROBLEMS (SAEP) MEETING SEPT 19-21. NORWEGIAN REP
(GRAHAM), WHO CHAIRED MEETING, URGED THAT SAEP MEETING SHOULD
ESTABLISH TASK FORCES TO CONSIDER THE SUITABILITY OF TOPICS
FOR POSSIBLE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON ENVIRONMENT
FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF RESOLUTION XXXII(1) CRITERIA.
NORWEGIANS SAID THAT THIS WAS THE VIEW OF THE ECE SECRETARIAT
ON HOW TO PROCEED AND THAT THEY ALSO SHARED IT. GRAHAM
SUGGESTED THAT INSTEAD OF THE TERM "TASK FORCES"
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GENEVA 07618 071341Z

WE COULD CALL THE GROUPS "EXPERT ANALYSIS GROUPS" OR USE
ANOTHER NAME THAT DOES NOT IMPLY AS MUCH COMMITMENT TO A
FIXED OBJECTIVE AS THE WORD TASK FORCES.

2. UK, US, BELGIUM AND SWITZERLAND ALL URGED PROCEEDING
WITH CAUTION AND NOT RUSHING TO QUICKLY INTO THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF TASK FORCES. BELGIANS ASKED HOW THE

TASK FORCES WOULD OPERATE, WITH WHAT DOCUMENTS, AND EXPERTS? UK SUGGESTED THAT SECRETARIAT MAY WANT TO DIGEST RESULTS OF SEPTEMBER MEETING AND THEN COME BACK. SWISS WARNED THAT BEFORE TASK FORCES CAN BE ESTABLISHED THERE MUST BE SOME CONSENSUS AND ASKED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THERE WERE NONE. WE NOTED THAT TASK FORCES ARE ONE WAY TO HANDLE PROBLEM, BUT THERE MIGHT BE OTHERS AND, IF TASK FORCES ARE ESTABLISHED, THEY SHOULD ALL WORK IN SIMILAR WAY.

3. GRAHAM REPLIED THAT STANOVNIK MUST PREPARE HIS REPORT BY MID-DECEMBER AND CONSULTATION PROCESS MUST BE COMPLETED BY THEN. TASK FORCES OR EXPERT GROUP NECESSARY BECAUSE EXPERTS FROM GOVERNMENTS MUST REVIEW TOPICS SINCE SECRETARIAT DOES NOT HAVE MANPOWER TO CONDUCT THIS TYPE OF TECHNICAL ANALYSIS. HE AND FRENCH REP NOTED THAT STANOVNIK DOES NOT NEED A CONSENSUS SINCE IT IS FOR HIM TO GATHER ALL OF THE VIEWS AND THEN COME UP WITH A REPORT. NORWEGIANS ALSO STRESSED THAT WE ARE ENGAGED IN PROCEDURAL EXERCISE AND THAT IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT WE MAKE AS CLEAR AND PRECISE AN ANALYSIS AS POSSIBLE OF THE DIFFERENT TOPICS IN ORDER THAT THE SOVIETS CANNOT ACCUSE US LATER OF NOT HAVING ACTED IN GOOD FAITH AND IN CONFORMITY WITH RESOLUTION XXXII(1). GRAHAM REPEATED THIS THEME SEVERAL TIMES DURING MEETING.

4. THERE WAS VERY LITTLE DISCUSSION ON POSSIBLE AGENDA TOPICS AS MOST REPS OBSERVED THEIR CAPITALS HAD NOT FOCUSED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 GENEVA 07618 071341Z

ON MATTER SINCE VACATION PERIOD. WE NOTED THAT OUR POSITION IS STILL AS EXPRESSED IN OUR LETTER, BUT THAT WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER OTHER TOPICS PROPOSED IN LIGHT OF CRITERIA IN RESOLUTION XXXII(1). IN RESPONSE, GRAHAM OBSERVED RUSSIANS HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT WESTERN COUNTRIES WERE NEGATIVE ON HAVING MORE THAN ONE TOPIC CONSIDERED BY HIGH-LEVEL MEETING. GRAHAM ALSO NOTED THAT, IN ADDITION TO TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION WHICH ALMOST ALL COUNTRIES HAVE MENTIONED, THE EASTERN COUNTRIES HAVE ALSO TENDED TO STRESS LOW AND NON-WASTE TECHNOLOGY AND SECONDLY MARINE POLLUTION AS POSSIBLE TOPICS.

5. QUESTION OF WHETHER TO CALL ANOTHER WESTERN CAUCUS MEETING BEFORE SAEP LEFT OPEN. A NUMBER OF DELEGATES SAID THAT AT SAEP MEETING THEY WILL BE REPRESENTED BY MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AS WELL AS ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALISTS.

6. COMMENT. IT IS CLEAR THAT SECRETARIAT AND NORWEGIAN PREFERRED OUTCOME FROM SAEP MEETING IS TO HAVE TASK FORCES OR EQUIVALENT ESTABLISHED FOR EACH PROPOSED TOPIC TO CONSIDER IT IN DETAIL SO AS TO PERMIT

JUDGMENT WHETHER IT MEETS AGREED CRITERIA. WE WOULD
APPRECIATE WASHINGTON VIEWS ON THIS. ALTHOUGH THERE WAS
SOME HESITATION EXPRESSED AT MEETING ABOUT ESTABLISHING
TASK FORCES, NO ONE SPOKE OUT IN OUTRIGHT OPPOSITION
TO THEM AND NO ALTERNATIVE WAYS OF PROCEEDING WERE
PROPOSED, ALTHOUGH WE NOTED ONE EXPERT GROUP TO CONSIDER
ALL PROPOSALS WAS AT LEAST HYPOTHETICAL POSSIBILITY.VANDEN HEUVEL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ENVIRONMENT, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GENEVA07618
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770323-0512
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770992/aaaacziw.tel
Line Count: 123
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 623f034d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 208943
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1368825
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ECE WESTERN CAUCUS DISCUSSION ON ENVIRONMENT MEETING SEPT 5, 1977
TAGS: SENV, CSCE, NATO, ECE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/623f034d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009